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HIGH-SPEED VIRE DRAWING AT HUNGARIAN STEEL MILL

Laszlo Szeless

The press has given publicity to the high-speed wire-drawing campaign initiated at the Salgotarjan Steel Mill. The campaign began last September under the direction of Pashko, Soviet consulting engineer.

The Salgotarjan wire-drawing mill operated for decades with the low drawing speed and higher speed was not used even with the new, modern machines. Depending on the type of machine, the drawing speed was 50-190 meters per minute, in contrast to a speed of 250-500 meters per minute widely current in the USSR.

At the Salgotarjan Steel Mill the campaign overcame all difficulties. The average drawing speed increased from 80 to 133 meters and with the most modern machines even a speed of 250-300 meters per minute was attained. Performance increase for the plant as a whole is 30-40 percent, according to conservative estimates

The first to join the campaign were the Matyas Rakosi Metalworking Plant and the rolling mill of the Salgotarjan Steel Mill. Adoption of the more advanced Soviet high-speed wire-drawing method has become a great technical and economic success; however, the main importance of the campaign became really evident when it was realized that more cable, hot-rolled hoops, and billets are needed for increased production in the wireworks. One month after the beginning of the campaign, engineers, technicians, and workers in all Hungarian rolling mills were devoting their attention to the problem in an effort to find ways and means for introducing high-speed drawing.

In the hot-rolling mills, high-speed drawing cannot be placed in effect because the number of revolutions of the electric motors which supply the driving power is fixed and the auxiliary equipment of the mills is not suitable for high-speed work. The problem of increasing output in the hot-rolling mills

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has to be solved differently. Statistics show that the percentage of production time lost in the Hungarian rolling mills for various reasons is high. From 10 to 30 percent, and, in certain mills, as much as 45-50 percent, of the productive time is lost due to changing the rolls, making adjustments, various operating difficulties, and other reasons. It is, therefore, clear that the principal object of the movement for increased production in the hot-rolling mills is the reduction of stoppages during production. The nationwide conference of rolling-mill workers held at Diosgyor on 17 November recognized the solving of this problem as a logical result of the high-speed drawing campaign which originated at Salgotarjan.

At the conference Laszlo Komjathy, Deputy Minister of Metallurgy and Machine Production, and Pashko and Korobka, Soviet consulting engineers, outlined a clear program for the high-speed rolling campaign. The conference adopted a resolution by which it established the indexes for time utilization and hourly production in 1952 for the total number of rolls in Hungary, as well as the operating methods for realizing this program. According to the resolution, loss of time must be reduced 3-10 percent and hourly production increased 2-6 percent. In terms of physical volume, realization of this program would make available the equivalent of the output of an additional rolling mill.

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